The aforementioned electrode plate groups 5 are explained in detail with reference to Figs. 4 to 7. In Figs. 4 and 5, a plurality of positive electrode plates 18 and negative electrode plates 19 are arranged alternately, and the positive electrode plates 18 are covered with separators 20 in the form of a bag having an opening on one side. The positive plates 18 and the negative plates 19 are stacked upon one another with separators 20 therebetween, thereby constituting the electrode plate group 5. In Fig. 4, the region where the positive electrode plates 18 and the negative electrode plates 19 oppose each other with the intervening separators 20 and generate electric power is indicated by oblique lines. The lateral edges of the group of positive electrode plates 18 protrude beyond the group of negative electrode plates 19 on one side, and the lateral edges of the group of negative electrode plates 19 protrude beyond the group of positive electrode plates 18 on the opposite side, and these protruding lateral portions form the lead portions 18a and 19a, to the lateral ends of which collector plates 21 and 22 are welded, respectively. The outer edges of the collector plates 21 and 22 are bent toward the inside as shown in Fig. 5, in order to restrict the dimensions of the electrode plates 18, 19. The collector plates 21, 22 are welded to the electrode plates 18, 19, so that the electrode plates 18, 19 do not spread outwards as pressure is applied thereto. Numeral 23 denotes external separators arranged at the outer faces of the electrode plate group 5 between the collector plates 21 and 22